GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2723
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Noise Pollution
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the noise levels in metro cities are above the prescribed limits including Delhi;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) the details of the guidelines issued by the Government to check noise pollution;
(d) the mechanism put in place by the Government to monitor noise pollution in metro cities effectively and the success achieved as compared to the previous year; and
(e) the details of awareness campaigns organized regarding noise pollution in the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Ambient noise levels are monitored in nine metro cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Lucknow on 24x7 basis at 70 locations under National Ambient Noise Monitoring Programme (NANMP). The data is collated, compiled and processed by CPCB. The analysis of data reveals that noise levels are within prescribed norms at a few locations, such as, East Arjun Nagar in Delhi, Jeedimetla in Hyderabad, Gole Park and Pollution Control Office in Kolkata, etc. However, noise levels are exceeded at a majority of stations. High levels of noise may be attributed to vehicular traffic, honking, railways, metro trains, aeroplanes, industries, generators, construction activities, use of public address systems, bursting of fire crackers, etc.

(c) Noise emanating from industry is regulated by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The noise standards for motor vehicles, air conditioners, refrigerators, gensets and certain types of construction equipments are prescribed under Schedule-I and Schedule-VI, as applicable of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. Compliance of noise norms for gensets, at manufacturing stage, is ensured by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Compliance of noise norms for horns and vehicles is done by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways under the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 and Rules notified thereunder.

(d) NANMP was established during 2010-11 by establishing 35 stations in 7 metro cities. 35 stations have been added during 2014-15 while bringing two more metro cities in the network. As on date, 70 stations (24x7 basis) are functioning in 9 metro cities.

(e) Advertisements have been published by CPCB and various SPCBs in newspapers about ill effects of crackers during Deepawali festival-2015. Anti-cracker camping has been undertaken by Government of NCT of Delhi through resident welfare associations and eco-clubs in various schools and colleges of Delhi.

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